

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1, 26, 63, 66 and 68-71 without prejudice; amend claims 16, 17, 24, 32, 45, 53 and 67; and add claim 72 as follows:

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16. (Amended) A method comprising:
organizing concepts according to their meaning into a lexicon of
predefined known relationships between the concepts, said lexicon defining
elements of a semantic space;

receiving a first input associated with a first set of concepts from said
lexicon, said first input representing a first location in the semantic space;

receiving a second input associated with a second set of concepts from
said lexicon, said second input representing a second location in the semantic
space; and

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determining a semantic distance from the first location to the second
location by combination of the semantic distance between each concept in the
first set of concepts and each concept in the second set of concepts.

17. (Amended) A method comprising:

creating a lexicon of predefined known relationships between concepts
that defines elements of a semantic space;

receiving an input associated with a first set of concepts from said lexicon
and representing a first location in said semantic space;

maintaining a target data set, wherein target data is associated with a
second set of concepts from said lexicon that represents a second location in the

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semantic space;

determining a semantic distance from the first location in the semantic space to the second location in the semantic space for each target data, wherein said semantic distance is determined by combination of the relative closeness in meaning between each concept in the first set of concepts and each concept in the second set of concepts; and

presenting results of a search conducted on the target data set for target data close in meaning to the input based on the determined semantic distance.

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24. (Amended) A method according to claim 23 wherein said labeled entity is one from the group of an image, video, sound file or document.

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32. (Amended) A method according to claim 18 wherein said data item is one from the group of an image, video, sound file or document.

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45. (Amended) A method according to claim 44 wherein said labeled entity is one from the group of an image, video, sound file or document.

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53. (Amended) A method according to claim 39 wherein said data item is one from the group of an image, video, sound file or document.

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67. (Amended) A method of generating a search result in response to a search request comprising:

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organizing concepts according to their meaning into a lexicon of predefined known relationships between the concepts, said lexicon defining elements of a semantic space;

receiving the search request and associating said search request with a first set of concepts from said lexicon;

relating the search request to a larger set of search terms, wherein terms in the larger set of search terms are close in meaning to the search request based on semantic relationships defined by the lexicon; and

searching a target data set for elements generating a match with the larger set of search terms.

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Please add new claim 72 as follows:

72. (New) The method of claim 67 further comprising:

assigning a monetary value to the elements in the target data set, and ordering matched target data elements from the target data set in accordance with closeness in meaning between the search request and the larger set of search terms, wherein the monetary value is based on the closeness in meaning.
